UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/48/939
S/1994/563
12 May 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-eighth session
Agenda item 54
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 11 May 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 10 May 1994 addressed to you by H.E. Mr. Osman Ertuğ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of that letter and its annex, which contains a letter dated 4 May 1994 sent to you by Mrs. Gülten O. Feridun, Vice-President of the Turkish Cypriot Women's Association, could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 54, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) İnal BATU
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 10 May 1994 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ

I have the honour to enclose herewith copy of a letter dated 4 May 1994, addressed to you by Mrs. Gülten Feridun, Vice-President of the Turkish Cypriot Women's Association, which is in response to a previous letter dated 8 April 1994 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative (A/48/924-S/1994/413).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 54, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Appendix

I would like to refer to the "message of struggle" issued by Greek Cypriot women, which has been circulated as document A/48/924-S/1994/413 dated 11 April 1994 by the Greek Cypriot delegation to the United Nations, and to respond to some of the allegations contained in that message, with a view to putting the record straight.

It is not totally surprising that the Greek Cypriot side has seized the occasion of International Women's Day to repeat the well-known accusations against the Turkish Cypriots and Turkey, as it has been part and parcel of Greek Cypriot policy for decades to conduct a merciless vilification campaign against the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in all international forums. This incessant campaign has not only been an attempt to misrepresent the historical facts behind the Cyprus dispute, but has also demonstrated the inherent hostility of the Greek Cypriots towards the Turkish Cypriot people and their utter disregard for the legitimate rights and aspirations of the Turkish Cypriots.

The message issued by Greek Cypriot women is replete with false accusations regarding "occupation", "violation of human rights", "oppression of the enclaved", etc. An appeal is also included in the message for securing the "withdrawal of Turkish troops" from the island.

As it is well known, on 15 July 1974, a coup d'etat was staged by Greece and its collaborators in Cyprus in order to annex the island to Greece and eliminate the Turkish Cypriot people in Cyprus. In the face of this imminent danger, Turkey intervened militarily on 20 July 1974 in accordance with its rights and obligations set out by the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee with a view to protecting the Turkish Cypriots and averting the annexation of the island by Greece. The 1974 peace operation by Turkey saved the island from being colonized by Greece and liberated Turkish Cypriots from Greek Cypriot terror and inhuman treatment which continued for 11 years, between 1963 and 1974.

The issues of refugees and missing persons has also been the subject of exploitation for propaganda purposes. There is, of course, no mention of the 1963-1974 period when hundreds of Turkish Cypriots were killed by the Greek Cypriot paramilitaries and a quarter of the Turkish Cypriot population (some 30,000 people) was rendered homeless. Hundreds more were abducted or subjected to enforced disappearance, never to be seen or heard of again. Until 1974, even the basic human rights and freedoms of the Turkish Cypriots were violated by the Greek Cypriot administration. Severe restrictions were imposed on the Turkish Cypriot enclaves. As for the question of missing persons, I need not remind you that the short-lived coup of 1974 engineered by Greece took the lives of thousands of Greek Cypriots as a result of the fighting between opposing factions. It has been estimated that over 5,000 Greek Cypriots were killed, not during the Turkish intervention, but during the coup itself. As it will be clearly observed from the following extracts taken from the statement of the then Greek Cypriot leader Archbishop Makarios before the Security Council on 19 July 1974, just one day before the 1974 Turkish peace operation, the death

toll was very high and both the Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots suffered from the coup:

> "I do not know as yet all the details of the Cyprus crisis caused by the Greek military regime. I am afraid that the number of casualties is large and that the material destruction is heavy ... It is clearly an invasion from outside ... The so-called coup was the work of the Greek officers staffing and commanding the National Guard ... The Turks of Cyprus are also affected. The coup of the Greek junta is an invasion, and from its consequences the whole people of Cyprus suffers, both Greeks and Turks ..." (S/PV.1780)

The allegation that the Greek Cypriot residents in Northern Cyprus were forced to leave their homes and lands is totally unfounded. While it is true that many Turkish Cypriots, as well as Greek Cypriots, were displaced as a result of the Greek Cypriot coup and its aftermath, out of fear, as is well known, it is also equally true that the question of displaced persons was settled by the agreement on exchange of populations between the two sides in 1975, where the two sides agreed on a voluntary regrouping of populations in their own respective territory.

Furthermore, the allegation that the so-called "enclaved" Greek Cypriots in the North are living under "oppressive conditions" is ludicrous. Greek Cypriots living the Karpaz region of Northern Cyprus fully enjoy human rights and have unhindered access to medical, educational and religious services. The United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) continuously discharges its humanitarian functions for these people and, if there is a request for permanent transfer to the South, they verify that their transfer to the South is voluntary.

That the living conditions of the Greek Cypriots in the North are in no way different than that of the Turkish Cypriots is testified to in the relevant reports of the Secretary-General.

The Turkish Cypriot women support a just and permanent solution in Cyprus, based on the political equality of the two peoples, to be mutually negotiated between the representatives of the two peoples. We believe that, if the Greek Cypriot side is also ready for such a settlement, it should then take steps that demonstrate willingness on its part.

For the sake of rapprochement between the two peoples and an early political settlement in this island, the Turkish Cypriot Women's Association would like to appeal once again to you to urge the Greek Cypriot side to discontinue its vilification campaign against the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in all international forums.

(Signed) Gülten O. FERIDUN
Vice-President of the Turkish
Cypriot Women's Association